



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

November 12, 2015

Mr. Alexander Smith
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Project,
San Francisco, California (CEQ #20150279)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We commend the Federal Transit Administration and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority for seeking to improve transit service and the pedestrian environment in the Geary Corridor. We appreciate that the document is accessible to the public, with plain language and helpful graphics to encourage understanding of sometimes complex technical information.

We have rated this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) as LO, *Lack of Objections*. Please see the enclosed *Summary of EPA Rating Definitions* for a description of our rating system.

EPA appreciates the thorough analysis of air quality and associated health risk that is included in the DEIS, showing that no adverse effects would result from the project. Near roadway health is an increasing area of research and interest for EPA and we appreciate FTA and SFCTA advancing the practice of including this information in a NEPA document.

EPA understands that with adherence to the San Francisco Noise Ordinance, there would be no adverse effects to receptors, but we note that Table 4.11-4 indicates that some of the construction equipment could exceed 80 dBA at 100 feet, while the text states that it would not. This information should be edited or clarified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the DEIS. When the Final EIS is released for public review, please send one CD copy to the address above (mail code: ENF-4-2). If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Mulvihill, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-947-3554 or mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Mulishill for

Connell Dunning, Transportation Team Supervisor
Environmental Review Section

Enclosure:

Summary of EPA Rating Definitions

cc: Chester Fung, San Francisco County Transportation Authority